

Hi my name is Charlie Neiss and this is the 8th principle minute.

Unitarian Universalist around the country have committed to dismantling racism beginning with their own practices, their identity and their own stories.

We find ourselves in the middle of Black History Month talking about siding with love, while we are on our journey to adopting our 8th principle. The action to adopt that principle will commit us to building a Beloved Community at First U., with all that entails. A beloved community must be inclusive. The UUA's Commission on Institutional Change speaks of Widening the Circle of Concern. One aspect of this is focusing on Hospitality and Inclusion. This commission

...concludes that Unitarian Universalists continue to repel many of the people who would otherwise provide the resources to fuel our continued growth. Though our predominantly white congregations and organizations may see themselves as welcoming, without particular practices, they continue to mirror the kinds of harms done to people of color and other marginalized groups in our larger society. On this note, we stress that when we are inhospitable to one group—for example, Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color—others who experience marginalization notice and our sacred spaces become unwelcoming for them as well.

We will be going through the uncomfortable process of learning this about ourselves and the, perhaps, more uncomfortable process of dismantling and rebuilding our congregation as a hospitable and inclusive community. We should prepare ourselves to embrace discomfort as a necessary part of growth.

For more information, search the web for “UUA hospitality and inclusion”.

If we add the 8th principle to the 7, we need to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions. Together we will continue to educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist.